



2005 Decisions

Opinions of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

8-23-2005

Malarik v. Ct Common Pleas

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.law.villanova.edu/thirdcircuit_2005

Recommended Citation

"Malarik v. Ct Common Pleas" (2005). *2005 Decisions*. 663.
https://digitalcommons.law.villanova.edu/thirdcircuit_2005/663

This decision is brought to you for free and open access by the Opinions of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit at Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in 2005 Decisions by an authorized administrator of Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law Digital Repository.

NOT PRECEDENTIAL

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT

NO. 05-1069

JAMES M. MALARIK,
Appellant

v.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF BEAVER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA;
JUDGE GEORGE JAMES;
JUDGE C. GUS KWIDIS;
JUDGE ROBERT E. KUNZELNAR¹

On Appeal From the United States District Court
For the Western District of Pennsylvania
(D.C. Civ. No. 04-cv-01776)
District Judge: Honorable Thomas M. Hardiman

Submitted Under Third Circuit LAR 34.1(a)
August 17, 2005

Before: RENDELL, AMBRO and FUENTES, Circuit Judges

(Filed: August 23, 2005)

OPINION

¹ It appears that the proper spelling of the name for this party is Kunselman.

PER CURIAM

James M. Malarik, pro se, appeals from an order of the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania dismissing with prejudice his complaint filed pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

In October 2004, Malarik allegedly filed various motions in what appear to have been personal injury cases he had pending in the Beaver County Court of Common Pleas. Before Judge George James, Malarik filed two motions, which Judge C. Gus Kwidis later denied. Malarik also allegedly filed five motions before Judge Robert E. Kunselman. Judge Kunselman denied all of the motions. Malarik then filed a complaint pursuant to § 1983 claiming that the judges' actions in dismissing his motions violated his constitutional rights. He named the three judges and the Court of Common Pleas as defendants. For relief Malarik sought monetary damages as well as declaratory and injunctive relief forcing that state court to modify its decisions. The defendants moved for dismissal for failure to state a claim on the bases that the judges were entitled to immunity, the Court of Common Pleas was entitled to sovereign immunity and the Rooker-Feldman doctrine barred review of the state court's decisions regarding the motions.

The District Court dismissed Malarik's complaint as to the judges on the basis of judicial immunity, as the Court of Common Pleas had jurisdiction over Malarik, and all

denials of motions were done in their judicial capacity. See Stump v. Sparkman, 435 U.S. 349, 357 (1978). The District Court further concluded that it could not grant declaratory or injunctive relief because that would inherently require review of the decisions of the state court in an appellate capacity, which is forbidden under the Rooker-Feldman doctrine. Finally, as to the Court of Common Pleas, the District Court concluded that it was entitled to sovereign immunity and, in any event, was not a person for purposes of a § 1983 action. Based on the above, the District Court granted the defendants' motions and dismissed Malarik's complaint with prejudice. Malarik appealed. We have jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1291. Our review of the District Court's dismissal for failure to state a claim is plenary. See Port Auth. of N.Y. & N.J. v. Arcadian Corp., 189 F.3d 305, 311 (3d Cir. 1999).

For the reasons discussed in the District Court's memorandum opinion and summarized above, we agree with the District Court that Malarik failed to state a viable claim with respect to all defendants. The District Court, therefore, properly dismissed Malarik's complaint.

Accordingly, we will affirm the District Court's order dismissing Malarik's complaint with prejudice.